



GARY W. ERBECK
DIRECTOR

County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION
P.O. BOX 129261, SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-9261
(619) 338-2222 FAX (619) 338-2377; 1-800-253-9933
<http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/deh/hmd/>



JACK MILLER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Medical Waste Management Plan

The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division is the local agency designated by the California Department of Public Health to implement the Medical Waste Management Act. This law governs the generation, handling, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of medical waste to protect the public and the environment from potential infectious exposure to disease causing agents.

The Medical Waste Management Plan is a document that describes the types and amount of medical waste generated at a specific location, and indicates how wastes are managed to ensure proper treatment and disposal. All Large Quantity Generators (LQGs generate **≥200 lbs.** of medical waste per month) and those Small Quantity Generators (SQGs generate **<200 lbs.** of medical waste per month) that treat their medical waste onsite are required to complete a Medical Waste Management Plan on the forms prepared by the enforcement agency. [Authority cited California Health and Safety Code Section 117600 et seq.]

Small Quantity Generators of medical waste that do not treat their medical waste onsite are not required to complete and submit this form to the local enforcement agency. They are, however, responsible for maintaining on file at their office a document stating how they contain, store, treat, and dispose of any medical waste generated. Completing a Medical Waste Management Plan and keeping at their office can satisfy this requirement.

Attached is a "blank" Medical Waste Management Plan form for your use. Please complete and sign the form and mail the original to the address listed above. Retain a copy for your records. If there are changes in any of the information on your Medical Waste Management Plan, submit a revised form to the address listed above within 30 days of changes. Annual submittal of the Medical Waste Management Plan is not required.

If you have any questions, please contact your area inspector or the Hazardous Materials Division Duty Desk at (619) 338-2231.

Attachment

"Environmental and public health through leadership, partnership and science"

MEDICAL WASTE – DEFINITION OF TERMS

MEDICAL WASTE means any waste that has been generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, in the production or testing of biologicals, or which may contain infectious agents, those organisms classified as Biosafety Level II, III, or IV by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and may pose a substantial threat to health. Medical waste does not include hazardous waste (as defined in California Health and Safety Code, Section 25117 and California Code of Regulations Title 22, Articles 9 or 11), radioactive waste as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 25850(e), and trauma scene waste. Medical waste is either biohazardous waste or sharps waste.

BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE means any of the following:

- a. Laboratory waste, including but not limited to, all of the following:
 - (1) Human or animal specimen cultures from medical and pathological laboratories.
 - (2) Cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories.
 - (3) Wastes from the production of bacteria, viruses, or the use of spores, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, including only Brucellosis, Contagious Ecthyma, and other animal vaccines, as identified by the department, and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures or material which may contain infectious agents and may pose a substantial threat to health. All non-sterilized cultures shall be presumed to be medical waste.
- b. Recognizable fluid blood elements and regulated body fluids, and containers and articles contaminated with blood elements or regulated body fluids that readily separate from the solid portion of the waste under ambient temperature and pressure. Regulated body fluids are cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluids, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, and amniotic fluid.
- c. Any specimens sent to a laboratory for microbiological analysis.
- d. Human surgery specimens or tissues removed surgically or by autopsy.
- e. Specimens or tissues preserved with formaldehyde or other fixatives, and waste contaminated with trace amounts of chemotherapeutic agents. Both of these wastes shall be disposed of through incineration. **(Bulk solid and/or liquid chemotherapeutic waste shall be presumed to be hazardous waste subject to hazardous waste disposal requirements.)**
- f. Waste containing discarded materials contaminated with excretion, exudate, or secretions from humans who are required to be isolated by the infection control staff, the attending physician and surgeon, the attending veterinarian, or the local health officer, to protect others from highly communicable diseases or isolated animals known to be infected with diseases which are highly communicable to humans.
- g. Waste, which at the point of transport from the generator's site, at the point of disposal, or thereafter, contains recognizable fluid blood, fluid blood products, containers, or equipment containing blood that is fluid or blood from animals known to be infected with diseases which are highly communicable to humans.
- h. Sharps, which are objects or devices having acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including but not limited to, hypodermic needles, hypodermic needles with syringes, blades, slides, broken glass items, such as Pasteur pipettes, blood vials, and other broken glassware contaminated with biohazardous waste.
- i. Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, excrement and bedding of animals including materials resulting from research, production of biologicals, or testing of pharmaceuticals which are suspected of being infected with a disease communicable to humans.
- j. Such other waste materials that result from the administration of medical care to a patient by health care providers and are found by the administering agency or the local Health Officer to pose a threat to human health or the environment. If there is a difference in opinion between the administering agency and the local Health Officer, the local Health Officer's view will prevail.

MEDICAL SOLID WASTE shall include but not be limited to, waste such as empty specimen containers, bandages or dressing containing non-liquid blood, surgical gloves, treated MEDICAL WASTE, and other materials which are not biohazardous.

SHARPS CONTAINERS are leakproof, rigid, puncture-resistant containers which when sealed cannot be reopened without great difficulty. These containers must be labeled with the words "Sharps Waste" or with the international Biohazard symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD." These containers must be labeled with the Generator's name, address, and phone number in a conspicuous location on the container when first used. Needles and syringes shall not be clipped prior to disposal. All sharps containers must be managed as BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE.

"BIOHAZARD BAG" means a disposable red bag which is impervious to moisture and has strength sufficient to preclude ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal conditions of usage and handling of a waste-filled bag. A Biohazard bag shall be constructed of material of sufficient single thickness strength to pass the 165-gram dropped dart impact resistance test as prescribed by Standard D 1709-91 of the American Society for Testing and Materials and certified by the bag manufacturer. The bags shall be securely tied so as to prevent leakage or expulsion of solid or liquid wastes during future storage, handling, or transport. The bags shall be **RED** in color and conspicuously labeled with the international biohazard symbol and the "Biohazard." The bags shall be labeled with the Generator's name, address, and phone number in a conspicuous location on the bag when first used. If the waste is to be autoclaved, the outer bag may be colorless as long as the inner bag is red and both bags meet the stated strength criteria. All waste in biohazard bags must be managed as BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE.

STORAGE AREA WARNING SIGN is: A sign posted at a designated accumulation area used to store medical waste which must read in English, "CAUTION—BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA—UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT" and in Spanish, "CUIDADO-ZONA DE RESIDUOS—BIOLOGICOS PELIGROSOS—PROHIBIDA LA ENTRADA A PERSONAS NO AUTORIZADAS" or in another language determined to be appropriate.

Intermediate storage areas shall be marked with the international biohazardous symbol or the signage noted above. These warning signs shall be readily legible from a distance of five feet.

Department of Environmental Health-Hazardous Materials Division



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Medical Waste Management Plan

Facility Information

Business

Name: _____

Type of Business: _____

Address: _____

Street No.

Street Name

City

State

Zip Code

Unified Program Facility

Permit #: _____

Date: ____/____/____

CA

Person Responsible for implementing the Medical Waste Management Plan

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Types of wastes generated

- ☐ **Sharps** – needles, broken glass, blades.

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Laboratory wastes** - specimens or microbiological cultures, stocks of infectious agents, live and attenuated vaccines, and culture media.

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Waste contaminated with fixatives or chemotherapeutic agents.**

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Pathology waste** – recognizable human anatomical parts.

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Other** (please specify): _____

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Blood or body fluids** - liquid blood elements or other regulated body fluids, or articles contaminated with blood or body fluids.

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Isolation waste** – waste contaminated with excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans or animals who are isolated due to highly communicable diseases.

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Surgical specimens** – human or animal parts or tissues removed surgically or by autopsy.

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Contaminated animals** – animal carcasses, body parts, bedding materials.

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

- ☐ **Home Generated Sharps**

Estimated monthly amount _____ lbs

Estimate of **TOTAL** monthly medical waste generated: _____ lbs

Method of treatment performed onsite (if applicable):

- ☐ **Steam Autoclaving**

- ☐ **Other state approved alternative technology** (please specify below):

Medical Waste Management Plan

Emergency Action Plan:

Plan to be followed to ensure the proper disposal of medical waste in the event of a natural disaster, treatment system breaks down, power failure, spill, etc.

Registered Medical Waste Hauler used to remove untreated medical waste (if applicable):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone #: (_____) _____

Contact Person: _____

Offsite Treatment facility to which medical waste is transported (if applicable):

Facility Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Phone #: (_____) _____

Contact Person: _____

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and believe the statements made herein are correct and accurate.

Name: _____

Type or Print

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____